announces Office of Children's Health Protection. President Bill Clinton supports American Heritage Rivers Initiative to help federal organizations and agencies work together to fulfill the goal of fishable and swimmable waters for all Americans. Owners

FUTURE CHALLENGES

We've Still Got a Long Way to Go

"...the problems that exist in the world cannot be solved by the level of thinking that created them...." —Albert Einstein

The world is home to many more people than it was 100 years ago, and we're still experiencing a significant growth rate. For example, the world's population has doubled over the last 40 years. In addition to population growth, the United States has become more industrialized. We use more natural resources now than at any other time in our history.

Population and industrial growth have created many environmental challenges. Our forests and wetlands are disappearing. Usable water is becoming scarce because it is being diverted into urban areas and agriculture. Agricultural land is being converted for development. Tourism is encroaching on pristine wild areas. Greenhouse gas concentrations are increasing as more people and industries use greater quantities of fossil fuels. Knowing this, our greatest challenge is to find a way to balance unprecedented growth through better planning, personal choices and implementation of innovative methods and technological advances.

Here in the Southeast, we're experiencing the fastest growth rate in the nation. Miami and Atlanta are among the nation's top 10 sprawling cities, and Atlantans drive more miles per day than any other Americans. This growth has brought unparalleled prosperity, but it is also placing unprecedented pressures on our environment and natural resources. In an attempt to keep up with our changing needs we're working with our communities, local governments and states to identify problems and find solutions.

Part of EPA Southeast's strategy is to provide helpful information about the environment to our communities and support their ability to make informed choices. Our role has evolved from that of an enforcer reacting to pollution problems to that of collaborative partner and regulator, sharing resources, encouraging

communities restore and revitalize waters and waterfronts. 1998 Clean Water Action Plan is announced to have local, state and and operators of regulated underground storage tank systems must meet requirements for spill, overfill, and corrosion protection.

pollution prevention and working together with communities for environmental protection. Business, industry and other institutions are now benefiting from many voluntary EPA partnership programs such as: Project XL, Green Lights®, Waste Minimization, Waste Wi$e and Energy Star™.

Pollution prevention technology is also an important part of EPA Southeast's strategy. For example, pulp and paper mills technology has advanced more in the last 10 years than perhaps in the 50 previous years. Pulp and paper industries now have proven options available to minimize their environmental impact, even though they are not required by regulation to use them. These new methods include technology for reducing water use, decreasing or completely eliminating harmful bleaching chemicals and decreasing the amount of toxics emitted into the air. EPA Southeast seeks out opportunities to encourage the installation of technologies like those available to the pulp and paper mills, which will prevent pollution and protect our environment.

Our region is a special place, the largest geographic region protected by the U.S. EPA. We enjoy remarkably rich and diverse terrain, beautiful shorelines, more miles of rivers than any other area of the country, more wetlands and five million acres of Southern Appalachian National Forests and Parks—the largest contiguous tract of public land in the eastern United States. Using the nation's environmental laws, we will continue to work to protect this special place. Our state

EPA Southeast's Science for the Future

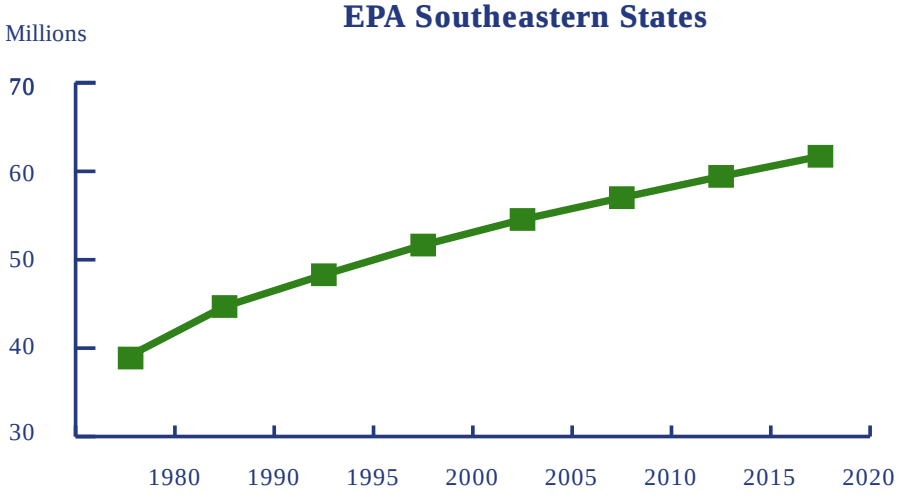
EPA Southeast is fortunate to have an entire division of scientists, the Science and Ecosystem Support Division (SESD), that travel throughout our region investigating environmental concerns of citizens and government agencies. These teams of men and women dive to ocean floors, climb mountain peaks, and wade out into swamps to collect samples for testing. After collection they analyze the samples in mobile labs or at their main laboratory facility. When the answers are discovered, the findings are reported to EPA Southeast's regulators and administrators. But for our scientists the job does not end there. They are constantly seeking innovative ways to apply sound science and cutting edge technology to environmental issues. Many situations require that our scientists refine standard testing methods to meet new challenges in quantifying and qualifying their data. Additionally, they are continuously searching for new and efficient ways to monitor our environment and prevent environmental events. These men and women travel the world assisting other countries and sharing their knowledge with our global neighbors. Quality and innovative science is the foundation that they build upon to protect our health and the environment upon which we all depend.

1999 Nationally, 650 Superfund sites, or half of all site cleanups, are completed. The Environmental Science Center opens at Fort system. The Revere Chemical Company becomes the nation's 600th Superfund completion. Radon testing is required to sell

The Mississippi Gulf Coast is among the areas being examined in EPA'S Gulf of Mexico Program

and local governments, community partners and you—our citizens—play a crucial role in helping us get this important work done. Our future depends on innovative and creative thought to correct the problems of the past. Each of us shares an obligation to be conscientious and steadfast in our commitment to environmental stewardship.

Total Population Projection in EPA Southeastern States



Mississippi Gulf Coast Growth

The Mississippi Gulf Coast has experienced unprecedented growth and development since dockside gambling was legalized in 1990. The existing casinos attract more than 50,000 visitors per day, and more than 20,000 new residents moved to gaming counties between 1990 and 1995.

Gambling has brought an economic boost to the counties along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, but environmental impacts are present. EPA Southeast has seen wetland loss, increased water demand and sewage needs and increased construction of roads and parking lots—which contribute to non-point source pollution.

As we grow, it is important to consider the environmental consequences. The Mississippi Gulf Coast is a good example of a growing area with a protected ecosystem that must be considered. It provides an essential habitat for numerous fish species, approximately 138 species of birds, 31 species of shellfish, 6 reptile species and 11 mammal species. Among these are several threatened or endangered species, such as the brown pelican, bald eagle and peregrine falcon.

Meade, MD, featuring green building technologies, energy-saving lighting, and an environmentally friendly climate control a home in most states. Occupants living in pre-1978 multi-family housing must be notified prior to any renovation. 2000